

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the purification of a substance, wherein a material containing the substance, and magnetic particles coated or treated with a reagent which binds the particles to the substance, are dispensed in a first medium, a binding reaction is let to take place, in which reaction the substance is bound to the particles, and a magnetic probe is pushed into the medium, whereby the particles adhere to the probe, and the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and if desired, separated from the second medium and transferred to a third medium, characterized in that the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least ~~on~~ one of the mediums, preferably at least to the first medium, and most preferably to all mediums, before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension releasing ~~compound~~ agent is selected from a group consisting of a tenside, alcohol, protein, ~~or a~~ salt ~~or~~ and carbohydrate.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing ~~compound~~ agent is a tenside, ~~such as~~ in the form of a detergent.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.001 - to 0.5% (w/v), ~~preferably 0.005 - 0.1% (w/v), and most preferably 0.01 - 0.05% (w/v).~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing ~~compound~~ agent is a protein.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.1 – to 10% (w/v), ~~preferably 0.25 – 5% (w/v), and most preferably 0.5 – 2% (w/v).~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing ~~compound~~ agent is a salt.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 – to 10 M, ~~preferably 0.1 – 7 M.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 for the purification of a material selected from a group consisting of cells, viruses, subcellular organelles, proteins, ~~or~~ and nucleic acid materials.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 for the purification of nucleic acid materials.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is less than 50 μm , ~~preferably 0.1 – 10 μm , and most preferably 1 – 5 μm .~~

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claim 1-11~~ claim 1, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.01 – to 5 mg/ml, ~~preferably 0.5 – 3 mg/ml, and most preferably 0.2 – 2 mg/ml.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method for separating magnetic particles by ~~means of a~~ magnetic probe from a medium, ~~characterized in that~~ said method comprising the step of

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dispensing a surface tension releasing agent ~~is dispensed~~ into the medium before the particles are separated from the medium.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the adherence of magnetic particles from a liquid medium to a magnetic probe to be pushed into the medium, ~~characterized in that~~ said method comprising the step of dispensing a surface tension releasing agent is ~~dispensed~~ into the medium before the particles are adhered to the probe.

15. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is separated from the second medium and transferred to a third medium.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1, where a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least the first medium before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.

17. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in all mediums before the probe and the particles are transferred therefrom.

18. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.005 to 0.1% (w/v).

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.01 to 0.05% (w/v).

20. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.25 to 5% (w/v).

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.5 to 2% (w/v).

22. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 to 7 M.

23. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 0.1 to 10 μm .

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 1 to 5 μm .

25. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.5 to 3 mg/ml.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles 0.2 to 2 mg/ml.

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